

WEBSITE INFO UPDATES/CHILDREN'S FORMATION - March, 2011

8:30-9:30 Children's Formation

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level One (3 ½ years/potty trained through 2nd grade)

Rooms: ____ (3-5 years old) ____ (5 ½-7 years old)

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is not a curriculum but rather a method of religious formation which is "rooted in the Bible, the liturgy of the church, and the education principles of Maria Montessori." Developed by Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi in Rome, Italy, it has been offered in the United States for over 25 years.



This method recognizes that an adult may study the Scripture, find a passage and ponder it's meaning, it's intent. I choose to read further, offer up a prayer or discuss the passage with others. A child however, unable to read, needs another way to ponder and express what they hear from Scripture, lessons expressed that morning or a prayer from the liturgy. During class (referred to as the "atrium"), children are given a lesson from a New Testament parable, passage or lessons on our Eucharistic Prayer. They are then given time and materials (referred to as "work") to experience what they believe the Lord is speaking to them through art, sculpted New Testament figurines, maps, Eucharistic or liturgical furnishings or simply a quiet place to sit and pray. The work of the child becomes a prayer, a conversation with God.

"If we want to help the child draw nearer to God, we should with patience and courage seek to go always closer to the vital nucleus of things. This requires study and prayer. The child will be our teacher if we know how to observe." – Sofia Cavalletti

10:30-11:30 Sunday School

Nursery and Toddlers: Rooms: ____ & ____

Nursing Mother's Room: 8:30/Room ____; 10:30/Room: ____

Preschool: 2 years the Kindergarten; Rooms: ____, ____, ____, ____

Group Publishing's "Hands-On Bible Curriculum"

Although this particular curriculum has been used by many churches across the nation for over a decade, it has been recently revised. "Hand-On" taps into a child's God-given desire to learn not just by listening and watching, but by doing.



"Hands-On" curriculum uses what is called a "one point learning" method. This simply means that rather than many Bible points being taught and loosely retained, "Hand-On" lessons focus on one specific Bible point through activities and interaction. The goal at this early developmental stage is that the child will retain one life-applicable piece of Bible truth each week. And, over the following weeks and months, they'll not only remember but apply these truths in their daily lives.

Elementary: 1st - 6th Grade; Rooms: ____, ____, ____, ____, ____

David C. Cook's "RIO-Deep & Wide"

"Rio's" philosophy: "Rio" believes that our faith is a relational one, and that the best way to grow people in the faith is to help them deepen their relationship with God and others. We strive to engage relationships at all levels - leader to child, child to child, child to parent, parent to leader - within the context of a relationship with God."



These days, children don't think of information in the same way as in other generations. To them all information is interconnected. With this in mind Rio presents Bible lessons as all part of the same incredible story written by God.

In this informational age, just because someone may know a lot about God it doesn't necessarily mean they know God. "Rio" stresses spiritual formation. "Every lesson is God-focused, builds Bible study skills, and helps kids understand each Bible story in the context of God's grand redemptive plan throughout history."

Additional miscellaneous activities:

Monthly meetings of our 5th/6th grade boys&girls' club, bi-annual 1st Communion class for preschoolers, Family Lenten and Holy Week guides, Advent guides, Christmas Eve pageant.